EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rajesh Fotedar on 6/15/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

21. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a virtual private network over an internet, the method comprising:

providing <u>by a computer</u> a graphical user interface configured to display a list of <u>VPN</u> switches, [[and]] for [[one]] <u>each</u> of the <u>VPN</u> switches, a menu of links, each link for accessing, via the internet, a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the <u>VPN</u> switch, <u>wherein each of VPN switches</u> offering virtual private network functions, [[each switch comprising a respective virtual private network element switch (VPN switch)]], wherein the list of VPN switches is displayed according to a hierarchical tree, each respective VPN switch comprising a node displayed on the hierarchical tree;

displaying <u>by the computer</u> a first selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the first selectable functionality for instantiating a new physical VPN switch by adding a new node to the hierarchical tree;

displaying <u>by the computer</u> a second selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the second selectable functionality for defining a network tunnel within the virtual private network [[element]], wherein defining the network tunnel includes receiving a selection of a first [[extranet]] <u>VPN</u> switch as a tunnel start point and a second [[extranet]] <u>VPN</u> switch as a tunnel end point, the second selectable functionality allowing for at least one network subscriber access to the tunnel; and

displaying a third selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the third selectable functionality allowing for providing a view of at least one tunneling technology offered by [[a respective extranet]] the <u>VPN</u> switch<u>;</u>

<u>transmitting an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a user; and accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch; modifying the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page</u>.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein each of the links correspond to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user interface prepares each

URL by [[pretending]] sending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page

location.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a virtual private network, the method

comprising:

     providing by a computer a graphical user interface display that includes:

     a list of extranet switches offering virtual private network functions (VPN

switches) and

     a menu of HTTP links for [[an extranet]] each VPN switch selected from the list of

VPN switches, each HTTP link, when selected, causing transmission of an HTTP

request to access a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the

[[extranet]] VPN switch, [[each switch comprising a respective virtual private network

element switch (VPN switch)]], wherein the list of VPN switches is displayed according

to a hierarchical tree, each respective VPN switch comprising a node displayed on the

hierarchical tree;

     displaying by the computer a first selectable functionality in conjunction with the

hierarchical tree, the first selectable functionality for instantiating a new physical VPN

switch by adding a new node to the hierarchical tree;

     displaying by the computer a second selectable functionality in conjunction with

the hierarchical tree, the second selectable functionality for defining a network tunnel

within the virtual private network [[element]], wherein defining the network tunnel

includes receiving a selection of a first [[extranet]] VPN switch as a tunnel start point

and a second [[extranet]] VPN switch as a tunnel end point, the second selectable

functionality allowing for at least one network subscriber access to the tunnel; and

      displaying a third selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree,

the third selectable functionality allowing for providing a view of at least one tunneling

technology offered by [[a respective extranet]] the VPN switches;

      transmitting an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) request when a link is

selected by a user; and accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in

response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information

related to the VPN switch;

      modifying the configuration information of the VPN switch via the accessed web-

page.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a virtual private network, the system

comprising:

      a processor; and

      a non-transitory computer readable medium electronically coupled to the

processor; a plurality of instructions wherein [[at least a portion of]] said plurality of

instructions are [[storable]] stored in the non-transitory computer readable medium, and

f[[urther]] wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the processor to

perform the step of:

providing a graphical user interface configured to display a list of <u>VPN</u> switches, and for one of the <u>VPN</u> switches, a menu of links, each link for accessing, via the internet a web-page generated by a web-server associated with a the <u>VPN</u> switch, <u>wherein each of the VPN switches</u> offering virtual private network functions, [[each switch comprising a respective virtual private network [[element]] switch (VPN switch),]] wherein the list of VPN switches is displayed according to a hierarchical tree, each respective VPN switch comprising a node displayed on the hierarchical tree;

displaying a first selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the first selectable functionality for instantiating a new physical VPN switch by adding a new node to the hierarchical tree;

displaying a second selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the second selectable functionality for defining a network tunnel within the virtual private network [[element]], wherein defining the network tunnel includes receiving a selection of a first [[extranet]] <u>VPN</u> switch as a tunnel start point and a second [[extranet]] <u>VPN</u> switch as a tunnel end point, the second selectable functionality allowing for at least one network subscriber access to the tunnel; and

displaying a third selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree, the third selectable functionality allowing for providing a view of at least one tunneling technology offered by [[a respective extranet]] <u>the VPN</u> switch<u>;</u>

<u>transmitting an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a user; and accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information</u>

related to the switch; modifying the configuration information of the switch via the

accessed web-page.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein each of the links correspond

to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user interface prepares each

URL by [[pretending]] sending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page

location.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a virtual private network, the

system comprising:

     a processor; and

     a non-transitory computer readable medium electronically coupled to the

processor;

     a plurality of instructions wherein [[at least a portion of]] said plurality of

instructions are [[storable]] stored in the non-transitory computer readable medium, and

wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the processor to provide a

graphical user interface display that includes:

a list of extranet switches offering virtual private network functions (VPN

switches); and a menu of HTTP links for [[an extranet]] each of VPN switch selected

from the list of VPN switches[[.]] each HTTP link, when selected, causing transmission

of an HTTP request to access a web-page generated by a web-server associated with

the [[extranet]] VPN switch, [[each switch comprising a respective virtual private network

element switch (VPN switch),]] wherein the list of VPN switches is displayed according

to a hierarchical tree, each respective VPN switch comprising a node displayed on the

hierarchical tree;

displaying a first selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree,

the first selectable functionality for instantiating a new physical VPN switch by adding a

new node to the hierarchical tree;

displaying a second selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical

tree, the second selectable functionality for defining a network tunnel within the virtual

private network [[element]], wherein defining the network tunnel includes receiving a

selection of a first [[extranet]] VPN switch as a tunnel start point and a second

[[extranet]] VPN switch as a tunnel end point, the second selectable functionality

allowing for at least one network subscriber access to the tunnel; and

displaying a third selectable functionality in conjunction with the hierarchical tree,

the third selectable functionality allowing for providing a view of at least one tunneling

technology offered by [[a respective extranet]] the VPN switches;

transmitting an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) request when a link is

selected by a user; and accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in

response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information

related to the switch; modifying the configuration information of the switch via the

accessed web-page.

39. (Cancelled)

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's

reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as

required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in

the Amendment filed on 5/25/2010 with respect to the amended claim limitations point

out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for

allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's

reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DUYEN M. DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu V. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DUYEN M DOAN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452